

For example, let us say dad's a teacher and makes \$40,000. Everyone knows he is not rich. Now let us say mom's also working and she makes \$30,000, money that goes to help raise their three kids, pay their taxes, and save for retirement. Almost everyone would still say this family is not rich. But the President is well out of the mainstream on this issue. His plan says that because mom works, this family is no longer middle class; that it somehow became rich and does not deserve full tax credits for its kids.

We strongly disagree. Our plans, which got the support of two-thirds of Senate Democrats as well as Republicans, do not punish families with working moms. These families work hard, play by the rules, and struggle to make ends meet. They are overtaxed and they deserve tax relief. If the President will not let them get a full share of lower taxes, if he thinks they only deserve a portion of the tax cuts others will get, then he ought to get out of the tax-cutting business. People who pay full-time taxes should not get part-time tax relief. Our tax plans live by this code. They would give this family up to \$1,100 more than the President's plan would.

Is this situation unusual? Definitely not. In 1995, the typical married couple with two or more kids in which both parents worked full time earned almost \$61,000. This typical family should be making about \$70,000 next year, assuming economic growth keeps going. Remarkably, this income level already disqualifies them for two-thirds of the President's tax credits for children, and that is just for being the typical family with two or more kids and two hard-working parents.

This crucial point warrants repeating. Under the President's plan, the typical married couple with two or more kids and both parents working full time would not qualify for full tax credits. Why? Because the President thinks they are rich.

The ultimate shape of this long-sought balanced budget agreement and tax relief package is targeted to be finalized before the August recess. I hope that we can take our case to the American public and sway the White House with the merits of our argument. Families where both parents work to make ends meet hardly fit anyone's definition of rich. More accurately, these families are representative of the effort it takes to keep a roof over their heads, food on the table and the bills paid, especially the hefty bill they are obligated to pay to Uncle Sam. On this key issue, the President clearly is in the wrong. These families are not rich. They are middle class and they deserve a full share of tax relief.

Under the bipartisan congressional plans, that is exactly what they will get.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PENDING NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I noted yesterday my concern that the Senate is failing to proceed to confirm the four judicial nominees and the nominee to be Deputy Attorney General of the United States. The Republican leader had indicated that today he intended to take up the nomination of Mr. Holder to be the Deputy Attorney General, the second highest ranking official in the Department of Justice. Now it appears that the Republican leadership has decided not to proceed to that nomination but to hold it hostage to the confirmation of the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust.

I urge the majority leader to abandon this brinkmanship. There is no need to tie up a noncontroversial and consensus nominee for the important position of Deputy Attorney General. In my view we could have proceeded to that matter before the last recess. In any event, there clearly is no justification for tying confirmation of the Deputy to any other nominee.

Likewise, I again urge the Republican leadership to proceed to consideration of the four judicial nominees favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee over the last 7 weeks. Yesterday, we succeeded in reporting three additional judicial nominees. I would hope that we could proceed to their confirmations early next week. Confirming those 7 nominations pending on the executive calendar would literally double our production for the first 6 months of this session.

We are still confirming judges at a rate of less than one judge per month. Twenty-three judicial nominees remain pending before the Judiciary Committee, some have been bottled up in committee for as long as 27 months.

HONORING THE RIGGS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Riggs of Saint Ann, MO, who on July 13, 1997, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I

look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Riggs' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

WISHES DO COME TRUE FOR KIDS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, a newspaper article entitled "Wishes do come true for Kids" appeared in the Saturday, June 21, 1997, edition of the Washington Times. The article relates the story of a charitable foundation—Kids, Inc.—which was established in 1982. The foundation has helped gravely ill youngsters in 17 states find some measure of happiness in their last days by financing a special vacation with their family members, or meeting a celebrity, or attending a circus, or participating in a group outing such as a VIP tour of the U.S. Capitol.

The article also tells about the moving force behind this very worthwhile volunteer organization—retired Army Colonel John G. Campbell of Burke, Virginia.

I am not surprised to read of Colonel Campbell's efforts to help some of our most vulnerable citizens. I have known Colonel Campbell for many years. He accompanied me on a congressional delegation to China and on several trips to dedicate military facilities in the state of West Virginia. He has served the country in uniform and as a staff member of the U.S. Senate. I have always found Colonel Campbell to be a man of competence, compassion, and Christian conscience. I thank and commend him for his efforts on behalf of the children who have benefited from Kids, Inc., and wish him and his wife, Jan, well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article about Colonel Campbell and his work on behalf of seriously ill children be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Times, June 21, 1997]

WISHES DO COME TRUE FOR KIDS

(By Patrick Butters)

To be perfectly callous, most people wonder whether giving cash and precious time to charity actually goes to the poor folks who need it most—or whether it just sinks into the black hole of "administrative costs."

With Kids Inc., a good answer would be to look around its small office in Burke. Enconced behind a heavy, nondescript door in an office complex on Old Keene Mill Road, the nonprofit group's results can be seen on its walls.

Photos show smiling and sometimes laughing children, most of them gravely ill. Since 1982, Kids has helped such unfortunate youngsters in 17 states find a few moments or a few days of happiness through special requests, such as visiting Disney World or meeting wrestler Hulk Hogan, actor Michael J. Fox or a member of the Washington Redskins. Children have gone on such group outings as VIP tours of the U.S. Capitol.

"There are no fancy ads, no fancy offices, no glossy publications and no fund-raising firms. It is small and has direct impact,"